

# THE HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

## CHAPTER VI

### RELIGION

#### (Chapter Outline)

This section will be the transitional chapter wherein the present will receive increased emphasis. Religion will be the first subject to be given full-length treatment, to be delineated from its beginnings down to the present time. This will be done because the subsequent chapters will treat of topics having more late history and contemporary phases than early history aspects. While it is true that the increased population and economic development of the county during the last fifty years would cause an increase in church membership, number of churches, number of different denominations, etc., this same increase of population and of wealth would have little or no effect on the functions of the church, its doctrine, or the attitudes of the people toward it.

The study of the county's religious progress can be completely and interestingly told thus:

1. Religion on the March. The beginning of religion in the county, when the deepest religious faith of the pioneer was bolstered only by occasional religious services.
  - a. The Circuit Rider. This man of God on horseback was one of the most interesting figures in the entire story of American national development. He visited wilderness homesteads once a year, or perhaps less often, to bless, baptize, marry, bury or convert, and the life he led has few equals outside the realm of fiction. In the history of the county, who was he, and where did he come from; when did he first come, how often thereafter, and what sect did he represent? What functions did he perform when he arrived, and how long was his route; how far afield did he travel? What anecdotes or hearthside tales are told of his physical or spiritual prowess? Was he not an intrepid, fearless character, secure in the belief that the Almighty would protect him against adversity; how did this bear up according to the history of actual events? To what extent was his counsel sought in practical matters; how did his sermons mix theology and practicality, faith and action? Uncover, if possible, some of the more colorful or vital illustrative stories used by the frontier preacher to bring home to his listeners the faith of their fathers?
  - b. The First Churches. When the first gatherings of families brought a demand for a place to worship; where and when were the first rude log churches constructed; what denominations did they represent; who were the early pastors, and with what conditions were they forced to contend in building a pastorate; who attended the church, and how well was it supported; what services were held, and when and how often; what influence did the pastors wield in community affairs, and what kind of men were they as to their age, training for the pastorate, general knowledge and ability?
2. Religion Sets Its Roots and Becomes Firmly Established.
  - a. The First Settled Churches and Places of Worship. When and where were they,



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and of what denomination; what prominent pastors and congregations did they boast; when and how often were services held, and what kind of services; what early religious affiliated bodies were introduced or developed; where, when and by whom were they introduced or developed; these facts should be used to trace the development of the county's religion down to about the turn of the century, covering all phases of religious influence within the county to that time.

b. Contemporary Religion in the County.

- (1) Tell here the story of the physical aspects of religion; the church buildings now standing; comparative figures on church or denomination membership; the growth of physical equipment and total membership since 1900; the pastors since then; the outstanding denominational contributions; the services held; all treatment to cover all churches.
- (2) The place of religion in the county; its influence in county growth and betterment since 1900; the status and contributions of the prominent pastors as both religious and temporal leaders.
- (3) Special influences; the church affiliates, such as special societies; their membership; record of growth; leadership; their possibilities for future development as instruments for encouraging good citizenship; the special contributions of special evangelists, and their influence through occasional visits.

In this section particularly it is necessary that whenever possible the writer use specific names, dates, and locations. County residents will have particularly good memories concerning religious events and clerical personalities of bygone days, and by dealing in specifics, it will be possible to easily strike a responsive chord in the minds of the potential readers of the history.



# THE HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

## Chapter VIII

### TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION

#### (Chapter Questions)

#### 1. Pioneer Transportation.

- a. The Natural Pathways, etc. What natural routes led into the county? This means the easy routes through valleys, passes, along rivers, etc. How did the first Indians come into the section? Describe scenery as it probably appeared in the early days.
- b. The Indian and Animal Trails. What animal trails were existent at time of first exploration? Map them. When used? How often? What Indian traces were there? Map them. What tribes used them? When? How often? Are any of these routes and trails now used? What changes and improvements have been made during their history? If any is a main highway, describe it fully in tour form, giving mileages between cities and villages along route, description of points of interest and communities.
- c. The Wilderness Roads and First Wagon Roads. Did the early white settlers use the Indian trails? When, and why, and how did they improve them for better transportation? Describe in detail first roads constructed for wagons--who built them? Were the Old Indian trails used as the route? What deviations from Indian routes were there? Why? Who financed them? Why were they built? Through what region did they lead? What region did they serve? What was transported over them? From where to where? What instances of conflict over construction are there? What natural difficulties were overcome? When were these trails most used? What settlements developed from their construction? Do these remain? What arguments over alternate routes developed? Describe such instances. Were they used in the way of 1812? The War between the States? Indian Wars? The Revolution? The French and Indian Wars? Were any of the roads constructed primarily for military purposes? What forts were located on them? What famous incidents are related about them? Through what type of country do they pass? Any natural phenomena of interest? Map early wilderness roads and wagon roads. Date them.
- d. Waterways. What waterways were used for transportation? Did such use precede use of trails, roads? How long was traffic maintained on rivers after roads were in use for passenger travel? When were waterways abandoned? Was the use of abandoned waterways ever resumed? Were any maintained through the years? How heavy was traffic on the rivers? Passenger? Freight? Did the Indians use these waterways? Was there any improvement? When? Why? Sponsored by whom? Paid for by whom? What interesting stories about the rivers are there?

#### 2. Early Developments.

- a. Public Highroads. When and where were the first public highroads constructed? Map them. Who used them? How were they built? By whom? How surfaced? Who maintained them? What developments along their routes were they responsible for?
- b. Public Conveyances. Describe stages, postriders, other modes of travel. How was early mail delivered? Get schedules, routes, stops, fares, etc., about stages. Any anecdotes you can find on this phase of travel. When inaugurated?



How long continued? Competition with other forms of transportation?  
Discontinuance? Describe wagons used on road. How many horses per wagon?  
Methods of maintenance of routes.

- c. The Railroads. Describe the plans and fight to bring a railroad to the section. Who was for and against it? Why? How was it finally secured? What opposition had to be overcome by them? Were there any battles or fights over it? Who financed it? Why? What local people were interested financially? What competition between railroads per routes? What government backing was obtained? Details of construction? Route? Map it. Natural difficulties overcome? Tunnels, etc.? What developments occurred because of the railroad's coming? What changes in physical habits of transportation? How did it affect other means of transport? What has it meant in industrial development? Figures on traffic here.
- d. The Telegraph and Its Story. Did the telegraph precede the railroad? Did it come simultaneously? Tell its story. What anecdotes of construction are there? What difficulties were encountered?
- e. The Telephone. What is the story of the telephone? Describe the service from first party lines or private line of some company to present time. What opposition was encountered? How overcome? Who built the lines? Why? Who financed them? Who now controls them? Were any local people interested? In what way? Did any attempted stretching of wires fail? Why? Did any company fail? If so, who took over the job? There should be a few good human interest items connected with this subject.

### 3. Today's Transportation.

- a. The Growth of Hard-Surfaced Roads. When did the county begin its road system? What roads were there at that time? What was the program? How was it carried out? What did the new road construction cost? Where were new roads built? What roads were improved? How? How many hard topped? How, Asphalt? Concrete? Macadam? Etc.? When did state roads begin? What roads became state highways? Was this an improvement? When were roads declared national highways? How many? What did this mean in maintenance and construction? Where do these roads touch? What sections do they connect with the county? What tourist trade have they encouraged? What other developments have they caused? Give dates on construction of various roads. What are present construction plans? How did surfacing speed up communication? What amount of present traffic do these roads bear?
- b. Bus Services. What bus lines and terminals are there? Regions served? Rates? Schedules? Connecting with rail service? When introduced and how much progress in patronage and service?
- c. Highway Freight Services. What freight goes over the roads? What type of products? What trucking companies operate within the county? What cross the county's roads but offer no income to county? What growth from beginning date? Prospects? How has it helped agricultural section? Small business? How does it affect speed of delivery? What taxes are firms paying within the county?